

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, line 29 – page 8, line 7 (paragraph number [0034] from the publication 2006/0177273) with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 5 shows in more detail the riser protection system shown in FIG. 3. As shown, the riser 18 is suspended from a STL buoy 19 arranged in the turret on a vessel 10 floating at the sea surface. Further, the riser protection means ~~[[10]]~~ 20 is suspended from the STL buoy 19 by means of chains 21. The riser 18 is further in the region of the lower end of the riser protection means 20 provided with a rubber collar 27 or similar means. The purpose of the rubber collar 27 is inter alia other to protect the riser 18 from wear and tear caused by the annular body 22 due to motions caused by waves, sea current, drifting ice and debris or wind. The collar 27 may have any suitable shape or dimensions and may be formed of any suitable material providing wear and tear resistance on the riser 18. The collar 27 provides also a controlled distribution of forces caused by the annular body 22 onto the riser 18.